

K-12 SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDY

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

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STATE OF WASHINGTON JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

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SCOPE

This mandated study will focus on the K-12 Special Education Program with particular attention paid to the Safety Net funding process and the Special Education program audits performed by the Office of the State Auditor. The initial phase of the study will be performed in 2000. It will include preliminary site visits and the solicitation of information and suggestions from advisory groups consisting of legislators, key interested parties, and subject area experts. This will assist in the development of a work plan for the second phase, which will take place in 2001. This work plan will encompass the research and analysis required to carry out the study mandate and to address related issues and information needs brought out in the advisory group process.

The study will address the following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

- **Review the findings of the Special Education program audit summary reports prepared by the State Auditor.**
 - In addition to reviewing the work that the State Auditor has performed, this objective may entail conducting follow-up work on specific issues raised and analysis conducted in those reports.
- **Evaluate the adequacy of the excess cost definition for the Special Education program adopted by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.**
 - This will include a review of the legal, statutory and regulatory context for Special Education funding, excess cost accounting, and a review of alternative definitions.

- **Assess the ability to determine individual school districts' Safety Net funding need in light of differing accounting methods in use by school districts.**
 - This will include an assessment of the districts' alternative accounting methods.
- **Evaluate the ability to uniformly determine individual school districts' Safety Net funding need in light of differing service delivery practices.**
 - A survey of such practices within Washington State, including on-site visits of programs in school districts, will provide a context for addressing this issue.

TIMFRAME FOR THE STUDY

Our JLARC work schedule assumes that a preliminary report will be completed and presented to JLARC at its October 2001 meeting.

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